

## Claims

What is claimed is:

1. A system for facilitating commercial food management, said system comprising:
  - means for recognizing an authorized user accessing the system remotely;
  - 5 means for providing at least one suggested menu which meets predetermined nutritional criteria;
  - means for providing nutritional information relating to said at least one suggested menu.
2. The system of claim 1, wherein the at least one suggested menu is based upon
  - 10 the regional location of the authorized user.
3. The system of claim 1, wherein the at least one suggested menu is based upon a patient's preference.
4. The system of claim 1, wherein the at least one suggested menu is based upon food products the authorized user currently has in stock.

5. The system of claim 1, wherein said means for providing nutritional information includes a plurality of databases, including a food item database, a recipe database, and a master diet type database.

6. The system of claim 1, additionally comprising means to manage food inventory  
5 at the location of the authorized user.

7. The system of claim 1, additionally comprising means for an authorized user to order food supplies from within the system.

8. The system of claim 1, additionally comprising means for a user granted access to the system to interact with a proprietor of the system.

10 9. The system of claim 1, additionally comprising means for a plurality of users granted access to the system to interact with one another.

10. The system of claim 1, additionally comprising means for searching information contained within the system, including said nutritional information.

11. The system of claim 1, wherein at least one authorized user is associated with  
15 a health care facility.

12. A system for facilitating commercial food management, said system comprising:

means for recognizing an authorized user associated with a health care facility accessing the system remotely;

5 means for providing at least one suggested menu which meets predetermined nutritional criteria;

means for providing nutritional information relating to said at least one suggested menu.

13. A system for facilitating commercial food management, said system 10 comprising:

a memory device for storing information relating to nutritional values associated with food;

a processor in communication with said memory device, said processor being adapted to:

15 create at least one suggested menu which meets predetermined nutritional criteria;

output said at least one suggested menu to at least one authorized user located remotely from said memory device; and

make available to the at least one authorized user the nutritional information associated with said at least one menu.

5 14. The system of claim 13, wherein the at least one suggested menu is based upon the regional location of the authorized user.

15. The system of claim 13, wherein the at least one suggested menu is based upon a patient's preference.

16. The system of claim 13, wherein the at least one suggested menu is based 10 upon food products the at least one authorized user currently has in stock.

17. The system of claim 13, wherein said memory device includes a plurality of databases, including a food item database, a recipe database, and a master diet type database.

18. The system of claim 13, wherein said processor is additionally adapted to 15 manage food inventory at the location of the at least authorized user.

19. The system of claim 13, wherein said processor is additionally adapted to permit the at least one authorized user to order food supplies from within the system.

20. The system of claim 13, wherein said processor is additionally adapted to permit at least one user granted access to the system to interact with a proprietor of the  
5 system.

21. The system of claim 13, wherein said processor is additionally adapted to permit a plurality of users granted access to the system to interact with one another.

22. The system of claim 13, wherein said processor is additionally adapted to permit searching the information stored within the memory device.

10 23. The system of claim 13, wherein at least one authorized user is associated with a health care facility.

24. A system for facilitating commercial food management, said system comprising:

a memory device for storing information relating to nutritional values associated  
15 with food;

a processor in communication with said memory device, said processor being adapted to:

create at least one suggested menu which meets predetermined nutritional criteria;

output said at least one suggested menu to at least one authorized user associated

5 with a health care facility located remotely from said memory device; and

make available to the at least one authorized user the nutritional information associated with said at least one menu.

25. A method for facilitating commercial food management, said method comprising the steps of:

10 authorizing at least one remote recipient to receive information;

creating at least one suggested menu which meets predetermined nutritional criteria;

providing for computer-based viewing of the at least one suggested menu; and

making available to the at least one authorized recipient nutritional information

15 associated with the at least one menu.

26. The method of claim 25, wherein the at least one suggested menu is based upon the regional location of the authorized user.

27. The method of claim 25, wherein the at least one suggested menu is based upon a patient's preference.

5 28. The method of claim 25, wherein the at least one suggested menu is based upon food products the authorized user currently has in stock.

29. The method of claim 25, wherein said nutritional information is maintained in a plurality of databases, including a food item database, a recipe database, and a master diet type database.

10 30. The method of claim 25, additionally comprising the step of managing food inventory at the location of the authorized user.

31. The method of claim 25, additionally comprising the step of an authorized user ordering food supplies from within the system.

15 32. The method of claim 25, additionally comprising the step of granting a user access to the system to interact with a proprietor of the system.

33. The method of claim 25, additionally comprising the step of granting access to the system to a plurality of users such that they may interact with one another.

34. The method of claim 25, additionally comprising the step of searching for information contained within the system, including said nutritional information.

5 35. The method of claim 25, wherein the remote recipient is associated with a health care facility.

36. A method for facilitating commercial food management, said method comprising the steps of:

authorizing at least one remote recipient associated with a health care facility to  
10 receive information;

creating at least one suggested menu which meets predetermined nutritional criteria;

providing for computer-based viewing of the at least one suggested menu; and  
making available to the at least one authorized recipient nutritional information  
15 associated with the at least one menu.

37. A program storage device readable by machine for tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by said machine to perform a method of commercial food management, said method comprising the steps of:

authorizing at least one remote recipient to receive information;

5 creating at least one suggested menu which meets predetermined nutritional criteria;

providing for computer-based viewing of the at least one suggested menu; and

making available to the at least one authorized recipient nutritional information associated with the at least one menu.

10 38. A program storage device readable by machine for tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by said machine to perform a method of commercial food management, said method comprising the steps of:

authorizing at least one remote recipient associated with a health care facility to receive information;

15 creating at least one suggested menu which meets predetermined nutritional criteria;

providing for computer-based viewing of the at least one suggested menu; and  
making available to the at least one authorized recipient nutritional information  
associated with the at least one menu.